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Times Your Community

Give thanks to volunteers

By Councilmember Rose Herrera
Special to the Times

The memories of family and friends sharing in our American tradition are still warming my heart during this Thanksgiving holiday. There is so much to be thankful for this year. I am very thankful for the dedicated volunteers that make District 8 so special. Here are just a few of the people and groups volunteering their time for our community.

I wish I could list everyone! If you or a member of your family volunteer, thank you! PTA, churches, youth activities, hospitals, animal rescue, neighborhood associations, carpool, food banks, clothing drives, school fundraisers, gang prevention, and community events — thank you!

Day Break Program at St. Francis of Assisi: If you have ever cared for an older adult who is functionally impaired, you know why to be thankful for this program. Through Catholic Charities, it provides non-medical care to meet the needs of functionally impaired older adults while enhancing the quality of life for both the participant and caregiver. I know how hard it is to be the caregiver of an aging parent. My thanks to Amy Andonian and her team for this invaluable program.

Produce Mobile: The Produce Mobile in the TOCKNA neighborhood delivers fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income households each month. The Produce Mobile recently served 125 families and 402 individuals. Everyone deserves access to fresh fruits and vegetables and I am thankful this service exists. SNI staff, Jennifer Kim Luc and Teresa Gutierrez, and TOCKNA neighbor, Laura Rosales, Laura Arechiga, Chuck Scott, and Volanda Candelaria went door to door registering families.

Nathan the Notary: Nathan volunteers his time to provide free notary services to seniors at Evergreen Library. He is at the Evergreen Library every Saturday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. offering free notary to seniors. He has been providing this invaluable service since April 2009.

Evergreen Community Center's Senior Advisory Council: This council meets monthly and members volunteer their time to help run the Senior Nutrition Program at the center, coordinate weekly BINGO for

seniors at the center, and help families in need of food during the holidays. My thanks to the Council Board of Directors Phil Henderson, Denis Nechuta, Victoria Bains, Phyllis Nakamura, and Mary Ann Gunton.

Day in the Park Volunteers: With more than 3,500 people attending Day in the Park, I cannot do it alone. The steering committee volunteers jump right in year after year to continue this special tradition. My thanks to Penny Aguila, Laura Arechiga, Aurelia Bailey, Olga Bove, Rose Dhaliwal, Lillian Jones, Richard McCoy, and Jim Zito.

Bonnie Mace: The outgoing president of the District 8 Community Roundtable has served as president for two years. She is a dedicated volunteer that is a good listener, takes the time to hear both sides, and provide fair and balanced input to me and the rest of the City Council.



District 8 Report
By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

Silver Creek High School Latino Parents in Action Group: For the past four years, 16 dedicated parents have focused on improving student achievement. They have devoted a significant amount of time to community involvement and volunteer work, giving

Silver Creek High School a family environment by becoming part of the school's safety team. The Latino Parents in Action helps to prepare both students and parents for the high school experience by providing guidance and orientations for parent involvement. They also raise money to provide scholarships to help bridge the financial gap for Latino students to attend college.

Neighborhood Commissioners: Thanks to District 8 Neighborhood Commissioners Neetu Dhaliwal, Tom Paramo, and Matt Wahlin who have spent countless hours volunteering on the Neighborhood Commission. They work hard to integrate the voice of neighborhoods into the City's decision-making processes. As an advisory body to the City Council, I greatly value their time and input.

With all that is going on in the world, it is refreshing to focus on the positive people and activities that bring joy, comfort, and care to our community. I am very thankful to all the wonderful people that use their time to help others. Because of their time and their efforts, Evergreen is a stronger and better community.

It is never too late to donate or volunteer: Second Harvest Food Bank (www.shfb.org), Sacred Heart Community Center (www.sacredheartcs.org), or Loaves and Fishes (www.loavesfishes.org).

Sign up for the District 8 Newsletter! www.sanjoseca.gov/district8.

Evergreen resident wins international award

Aji Rajappan was awarded the 2010 PMI Distinguished Contribution Award for his dedication to the profession and practice of project management.

This is an International Award given by Project Management Institute (PMI) every year, and it recognizes significant achievement for sustained performance by an individual who contributes to the advancement of



Aji Rajappan

the project management.

"Passion for your profession ... that is what enables you to dream the impossible," said Rajappan. "That is what makes you achieve great results."

Rajappan currently works at Cisco Systems in San Jose; with the Enterprise Release Management Organization, managing large & complex enterprise-wide, IT releases.